

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 113745

10

ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-06 EB-07

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /051 R

DRAFTED BY COMM/NOAA/NMFS:RARNAUDO:RGOTTEMOELLER

APPROVED BY OES/OFA/FA:LMNAKATSU

COMM/NMFS/NOAA:MKRAVANJA

COMM/NOAA/NMFS:HBEASLEY

STATE-EUR/WE:JSMITH 632-1726

STATE-EUR/SOV:JCOLBERT 632-3071

STATE-AF/W:ESWENSON 632-8354

STATE-OES/OFA

----- 035806

R 090426Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL NICE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 113745

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EFIS, FR, UR

SUBJECT: FRENCH SOVIET FISHING VENTURE IN WEST AFRICA

REF: A.) PARIS 4355, FEB. 12, 1976; B.) FREETOWN 2370,
SEPT. 30, 1975; C.) STATE 299329, DEC. 15, 1975.

1. NICE ONLY: REFTEL A SUGGESTS THE NATIONAL MARINE
FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS), NOAA, COMMERCE CONTACT CONGEN
NICE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON CASACRUZ, FRANSOV, AND
SOVIET INVOLVEMENT WITH SAME. SPECIFICALLY, CONFIRMATION
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 113745

OF INFO IN PART C, PARA 1, REF A WOULD BE APPRECIATED,

SINCE NMFS AND US INDUSTRY SOURCES ARE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN TUNA FISHING VENTURES FRANSOV MAY BE PLANNING. POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF 7 VESSELS (EITHER BY NAME, TONNAGE OR TYPE) ALREADY ASSIGNED TO FRANSOV BY THE SOVIETS WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL. WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE FRENCH BANK HOLDING FRENCH PART OF THE SHARES TOGETHER WITH CASACRUZ? REFTELS A, B, AND C HAVE BEEN SENT TO POST BY AIR POUCH.

2. FREETOWN ONLY: NMFS WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE EMBASSY FOR THE FINE ALERT REPORTING IN REF B. NMFS WAS UNABLE TO REPLY AT THE TIME REFTEL WAS RECEIVED DUE TO A HEAVY SCHEDULE, BUT THE INFORMATION WAS NOTED AND WAS MUCH

APPRECIATED. REFTELS A AND C ARE BEING SENT TO THE POST SEPARATELY BY AIR POUCH. NMFS WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN SIERRA LEONE VENTURE, AND IS CONTRIBUTING THE FOLLOWING:

A.) PARA 1, REF B MENTIONS 100-200 TONNAGE RUSSIAN TRAWLERS REGISTERED IN SIERRA LEONE AND OPERATING IN SIERRA LEONE TERRITORIAL WATERS. NMFS BELIEVES THE GROSS TONNAGE MENTIONED MAY BE IN ERROR, SINCE THE SOVIETS USE VESSELS THAT SMALL ONLY FOR FISHING OPERATIONS IN THE INLAND WATERS OF THE USSR.

B.) THE TRAWLER SHOTA GAMTSEMLIDZE (REF B, PARA 1) IS A MAIAK-CLASS MEDIUM FREEZER TRAWLER (SOVIET DESIGNATION FOR THIS CLASS IS SRTM), 699 GROSS REGISTERED TONS, 341 DEADWEIGHT TONS, A CREW OF ABOUT 30, BUILT IN THE USSR IN 1967. NMFS WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION OF SIZE SPECIFICATIONS FOR OTHER VESSELS INVOLVED IN THE VENTURE, AS WELL AS THE TOTAL NUMBER NOW OPERATING OFF SIERRA LEONE. (REF B MENTIONS A POSSIBLE TOTAL OF 16 BY THE END OF 1976.)

C.) PART B, PARA 2, REF A MENTIONS A 50 PERCENT SOVIET OWNERSHIP IN FRENCH-SOVIET JOINT COMPANY FRANSOV, RATHER THAN 88-94 PERCENT MENTIONED REF B. REMAINING 50 PERCENT APPARENTLY IS OWNED BY FRENCH COMPANY CASACRUZ AND ANOTHER FRENCH SHAREHOLDER.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 113745

3. PARIS ONLY: REF C IN PARIS 4355 IS APPARENTLY A WRONG NUMBER (PARIS 28832), SINCE THE STATE DEPT. HAS BEEN UNABLE TO LOCATE IT. NMFS WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATE RECEIVING EITHER A COPY OF THE CABLE OR AN INDICATION OF THE CORRECT NUMBER.

4. MOSCOW ONLY: THE SOVIET MINISTRY OF FISHERIES INAUGURATED A TUNA FISHERY IN THE MID-1960S WITH THE PURCHASE

OF 5 TUNA MOTHERSHIPS FROM JAPAN. DESPITE THIS LARGE INITIAL INVESTMENT, THE SOVIET TUNA FISHING INDUSTRY HAS BEEN PLAGUED BY POOR PROFITABILITY FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. THE SITUATION HAS BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO POOR PLANNING, POOR USE OF PROCESSING FACILITIES ON BOARD THE MOTHERSHIPS, LOW CATCH RATES, A LACK OF INITIATIVE AMONG THE FISHERMEN, AND A POOR SHORE-BASED MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM. HOWEVER, DESPITE THIS POOR SHOWING, THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES HAS CONTINUED TO PUT MONEY INTO THE INDUSTRY. NOW IT APPEARS THAT JOINT VENTURES SUCH AS FRANSOV MAY BE UNDER CONSIDERATION AS A MEANS OF PARTICIPATING IN WORLD TUNA FISHERIES BY USING TUNA VESSELS OWNED BY THESE VENTURES.

-

BECAUSE ANY SUCH PROGRAMS WOULD IMPACT SHARPLY ON THE U.S. TUNA INDUSTRY, NMFS WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ALERT REPORTING THE EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE ON SOVIET TUNA PLANS AND DEVELOPMENTS.

5. CASABLANCA ONLY: NMFS WOULD APPRECIATE ANY NEW INFO REFGFISHATT MAY HAVE ON SOVIET TUNA FISHING IN THE WATERS OFF WEST AFRICA.

6. PLEASE SEPARATE CLASSIFIED FROM UNCLASSIFIED MATERIALS IF POSSIBLE; UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION IS PREFERRED FOR USE IN NMFS REPORTS AND INFORMATION RELEASES. KISSINGER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE113745
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RARNAUDO:RGOTTEMOELLER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760574/aaaaclnb.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PARIS 4355, FEB. 12, 1976, 76 FREETOWN 2370, SEPT. 30, 1975
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH SOVIET FISHING VENTURE IN WEST AFRICA
TAGS: EFIS, FR, UR
To: CASABLANCA FREETOWN MOSCOW NICE PARIS COPENHAGEN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006